

Jerman-Walker Springhouse (Wilson Springhouse)
On North Valley Road (LR 15108), approximately
.5 mile south of Swedesford Road (LR 15132)
Paoli Vicinity (Tredyffrin Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1217

HABS
PA,
15-PAOL.V,
3A

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JERMAN-WALKER SPRINGHOUSE
(WILSON SPRINGHOUSE)

HABS No. PA-1217
PA,
15-PAOL.V,
3A-

Location: On County Road #15108 about 3/4 mile south of County Road #15132, Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners] 1956).

Present Owner: Robert W. Rigg, Paoli, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement of Significance: Noteworthy as a well-preserved example of 18th century springhouses in the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: William Powell had 500 acres by patent, which he sold 1701 to Thomas Jerman; and his 1740 will left it to his daughter Mary, the wife of Enoch Walker; who sold 1754 to Jerman Walker; whose 1770 will left it to Thomas Jerman Walker; who sold 1802 to John Llewellyn; who left it to his daughter; who sold 1811 to Lewis Reece; who left it 1814 to brother, Enos Reece; who sold 1818 to Abner Cornog; who left it 1852 to Maria Griffith; whose heirs sold it 1903 to Wm. C. Wilson; and in 1955 the Wilson family (David Wilson) sold to Alfred R. Jamison; who sold 1957 to Robert W. Rigg, the present owner.
2. Date of erection: 18th century.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None known. This springhouse has been little changed, except one enlargement after 1798 when it measured only half its present size.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Early 19th century, the springhouse was made twice as large.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: Eleanor Raymond: Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania. William Helburn, New York 1931. see plate 74 at the bottom of page.
References: Sources of information, to be found in Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript files under heading: Tredyffrin Township, Lands.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This 18th century springhouse has been little changed except, in the early 19th century, it was enlarged to twice its original size.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: This building has a spring level, first floor and loft; and is 15' by 23' plus 3' by 8' chimney in northeast corner.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone.
4. Chimneys: There is a 3' by 8' chimney in the northeast corner.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is a door in each of spring level and first floor level.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are no shutters; three windows on each floor.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Medium pitch roof with wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: None.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Spring level is divided into two rooms, as is the first floor also; there is one room in loft.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: The first floor is old - oak.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: These are old.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: None of the hardware is old.

- 8. Lighting: None.
- 9. Heating: One fireplace.

D. Site

- 1. General setting and orientation: Set by side of stream, springhouse faces south.
- 2. Enclosures: None.
- 3. Outbuildings: None, although the main house is nearby.
- 4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
- 5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Well kept with wild planting.

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
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